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WYDOT fights wet spring Emergency projects mitigate mudslides, flooding in District 5



open as mud flows slowed.

By Cody Beers

Following the noteworthy 2022-23 Wyoming winter, most of the Cowboy State continued to experience a wet, soggy and chilly spring

There were impacts in Wyoming, and northwest Wyoming offers examples:

Beginning March 26, an active slide in Wind River Canyon, energized by saturated soils, began pushing mud and rocks downhill toward US Highway 20/Wyoming Highway 789. A \$71,880 emergency contract with Broomfield, Colorado, rock scaling company Geovert was launched in late April.

On April 12, mud flows caused by warming spring weather and increasing snow melt plugged a culvert, and runoff creek flows flowed over parts of US Highway 14/16/20 about 7 miles east of the East Gate of Yellowstone National Park

Meanwhile, motorists in Wind River Canyon endured traffic delays of up to 20 minutes as the safety-conscious specialty contractor, using mountain climbing techniques, completed 12-hour days mitigating current and future falling rock hazards.

WYDOT maintenance workers provided traffic control to help expedite the emergency project, which concluded by mid-May prior to increases in summer traffic.

"Maintenance workers also cleaned up the scaled rock and mud to minimize costs," Lamb said. "We appreciate everyone's patience as we cleaned up another slide in Wind River Canyon."

US 20/WYO 789 through Wind River Canyon is a critical link in Wyoming's transportation infrastructure between Big Horn Basin communities and the central and southern half of Wyoming. Complicating the effort was the slide location; it's in a hilly area of the highway where it's difficult to see oncoming traffic from the north or south, near Boysen Reservoir.

"Danger was increasing for motorists, especially with ongoing spring storms in the area," Lamb said. "The emergency project in Wind River Canyon was necessary to prevent a catastrophic, longterm highway closure."



Basin Maintenance Foreman Scott Thomas uses an excavator to move mud and debris from a plugged box culvert. The box culvert became blocked as mud and debris rushed down the mountain on the northside of US 14/16/20. Thomas was able to get the box culvert reopened.



WYDOT crews used an excavator and other heavy equipment to open up an important, clogged box culvert to carry mountain stream flows and debris under US 14/16/20 near Yellowstone National Park.



A District 5 snow plow plows mud on US 14/16/20 near Yellowstone in June after a mudslide above the highway was triggered by large amounts of rain, snowmelt and snow. WYDOT worked through the night to reopen one lane of the highway, and after 24 hours, two lanes of the roadway remained

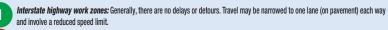
Then June 7, following nearly daily rainfall, mud flows crossed US 14/16/20 about 3 miles east of Yellowstone's East Gate.

Active teamwork by Wyoming Department of Transportation maintenance workers and heavy duty equipment played a role in mitigating all three events. Crews kept traffic moving while safely plowing mud off of the highway and using an excavator to open an important box culvert to carry mountain stream flows and debris under the highway.

"Expedited work on the mud flows and Wind River Canyon slide was necessary," said WYDOT Maintenance Engineer Lyle Lamb of Basin. "Our guys stepped up and took care of business. We're proud of our dedicated maintenance workers, who worked together and also joined a specialty contractor to keep our highways open and safe for motorists."

Legend

P



Two-lane road projects: Motorists may be required to stop and wait to follow pilot cars. Usually, any delays are limited to 20 minutes or less and travel is on pavement.

Two-lane road projects: At times, motorists may have to drive on gravel or another temporary surface, typically for two miles or less. Delays are limited, there are no detours unless specifically noted but there may be a pilot car.

District-wide projects: Various locations, may involve reduced speeds.

Not every project is listed Due to the unpredictable nature of the construction process, not all projects are active all the time. In addition, some short-term projects and smaller projects which disrupt traffic to a lesser degree are not listed. Completion dates are approximate.

Commercial vehicle operators: In work zones, size and weight restrictions may apply. Ask for details at any Wyoming port of entry or call (307) 777-4376. Current restrictions are also available on the Internet at www.wyorad.info/highw estrictions.html.

Northwest Wyoming - A

A1 US 26/287 Dubois-Diversion Dam, Crowheart Section. Asphalt milling, overlay, chip seal. MM 72.13-85.03.

A2 District 5 bridge rehab. Grading, milling, pavement, bridge rehab, guardrail work. Locations: WYO 120 MM 100.53. Delays expected.

A3 US 26/287 Moran Junction-Dubois. Buffalo Fork Section. Asphalt milling, overlay, chip seal, bridge rehab over Buffalo Fork of the Snake River. MM 2.2-7.53. Portable traffic signal. Delays expected.

A4 WYO 433 Worland-Manderson. Bridge replacements, reconstruction of roadway north of Worland. Demolition/reconstruction of 3 bridges, grading, asphalt pavement surfacing, fencing, chip sealing. MM 4.14-5.50. Delays expected.

A5 WYO 789; Hidden Valley Section between Riverton and Shoshoni. Pavement overlay.

(A6) US 20/26 between Shoshoni and Casper, passing lane overlay. Asphalt paving, chip seal, traffic control and other work on seven sets of passing lanes. Includes work at the Waltman Rest Area.

A7 US 14/16/20 Cody-Yellowstone tunnel light replacement project. Removal/replacement of tunnel lighting system, installation of tunnel warning system. MM 45 to 1 mile east. Project work at night. Delays expected.

A8 US 310/WYO 789 Deaver-Montana State Line, Frannie Section. Pavement milling, overlay and chip seal. MM 249.49- 257.03. Delays expected.

A9 US 14A Garland-Byron. Sidon Canal Section. Pavement milling, overlay and chip sealing. MM 33.76-38. Delays expected. A10 Lovell-Burgess Junction warning system, US 14A. Electrical and signing. Replacement of blank-out sign, MM 68.5. Delays expected.

A11 Thermopolis-Worland slope flattening project, US 20/WYO 789. Grading, drainage, asphalt pavement surfacing and other work. MM 141.78-145.51. Delays expected.

(A12) Cottonwood Creek BROS bridge replacement project. Washakie CR 86. Removal, placement of bridge structure, asphalt paving, grading.

A13 Big Horn County Rd. 16 1/2, Georgia-Pacific Rd.. Asphalt paving and milling, grading, lining of existing pipes.

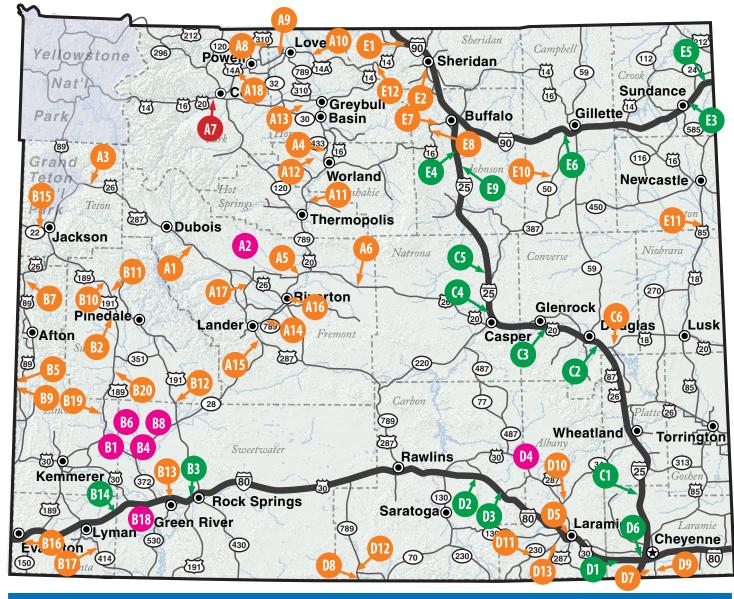
A14 Lander-Hudson, State School Section, WYO 789, MM 80.97-82.40. Asphalt paving, sidewalk, curb/gutter, milling, wearing course.

(A15) Muddy Gap-Lander, Lyons Valley Section, US 287/ WYO 789, MM 80.16-81.03, MM 73.97-79.10. Asphalt milling/paving, bridge rehab, chip sealing, sidewalk curb/gutter.

A16 Riverton Streets, Little Wind River Pedestrian Bridge, WYO 789, MM 102.93, installing river barbs upstream of pedestrian bridge.

A17 Cody-Yellowstone, Buffalo Bill Section, US 14/16/20, MM 36.41 (Trout Creek) to 41.69 (Buffalo Bill State Park campground/boat launch). Settlement repair – four locations, milling, overlay, chip sealing, slope flattening; reclamation and cleanup follows.

A18 Badger Basin Section, WYO 294, MM 0 (intersection WYO 294/US 14A) to 9.84 northwest. Asphalt pavement overlay, chip sealing, minor slope flattening, guardrail repairs.



Southwest Wyoming - B

B1 Crack seal in various locations: Lincoln, Sublette, Sweetwater Counties. Bituminous surfacing, traffic control and other work.

B2 Daniel Jct. Dynamic Messaging Sign project.

B3 Rock Springs/I-80 Interchange Rd. Replace/reconstruct interchange – 0.81 miles.

B4 Contract patch in various locations: Lincoln, Uinta, Sweetwater Counties. Bituminous surfacing, milling, traffic control and other work.

B5 WY0 89/Idaho border. MM 45-55. Box culvert install, guardrail, cold in-place recycling, paving, chip seal. One-lane traffic, portable signals/multiple sites 24/7. 12 ft. width restriction.

B6 Chip seal in various locations: Sublette, Sweetwater Counties. Bituminous surfacing, chip seal, traffic control and other work.

B7 US 89 (MM 108.13)/Etna North: grading, draining, crushed base, bituminous surfacing, full-depth reclamation – 9.30 miles.

B8 Epoxy striping in various locations: Sweetwater, Sublette, Teton Counties. Striping, traffic control and other work. **B9** Idaho-Smoot (Smoot South). Bituminous surfacing (recycle), traffic control, milling, chip seal on 7.10 miles of US 89 at MM 65.02 between Idaho and Smoot.

B10 Daniel Jct.-Bondurant Rd. (US 189/191) Fencing, grading, traffic control on 5.10 miles of US 189/191 at MM 131.28 between Daniel Jct. and Bondurant Rd..

B11 Daniel Jct.-Hoback Jct. (40 Rod Flats Section) Bituminous surfacing (recycle), traffic control, fencing, milling, chip seal, bridge deck repair on 8.80 miles of US 189/191 at MM 111.27 between Daniel Jct. and Hoback Jct.

B12 Farson-Pinedale (County Line North) Bituminous surfacing (recycle), traffic control, milling, chip seal on 10.00 miles of US 191 at MM 51.62 between Farson and Pinedale.

Green River Streets WYO 530 through Green River. Electrical, sidewalk, curb/gutter, signing, surfacing (concrete), traffic control, grading, striping at various intersections in the town of Green River.

B14 Lyman-Green River (Little America/I-80) Bituminous surfacing, milling, plant mix wearing course, traffic control on 11.90 miles in the EBL and WBL of I-80 at MM 65.44 between Lyman and Green River.

B15 Jackson-Wilson Rd. (Snake River Bridge) Bridge replacement, grading, traffic control, surfacing, bituminous and concrete surfacing, fencing on 1.80 miles on WYO 22, WYO 390 between Jackson and Wilson Rd.

Evanston-Lyman (WYO 150) Electrical, surfacing (concrete), sidewalk, curb/gutter, traffic control, grading, striping at the interchange of I-80 and (Front Street) WYO 150 in the town of Evanston.

B17 Mountain View-Lonetree (WYO 414) Bituminous surfacing, traffic control, guardrail, grading, milling on 9.40 miles on WYO 414 at MM 110.63 between Mountain View and Lonetree.

B18 WYO 150 (MM 2.46), WYO 372 (MM 17)/ WYO 28 Jct. south. Sweetwater, Uinta Counties. Hot in-place recycling, resurfacing, bridge rehab, traffic control, chip seal, guardrail on 19.90 miles.

B19 US 189-LaBarge/Big Piney Rd.. Grading, milling, crushed base, resurfacing, box culverts, cattle guards, guardrail, fencing, on 19.0 miles. Rd.-1.9 miles, fencing-14.9 miles, signing-2.2 miles (MM 86).

B20 Big Piney Cutoff Erosion Repair.

Northeast Wyoming - E

E1 US 14 Ranchester bridge. Replace structure over railroad tracks. Open to traffic with occasional traffic control.

E2 US 87/Downtown Sheridan Main Street. Resurfacing and utility upgrade. Closed from Dow Street to Grinnell Street.

E3 I-90 Sundance marginal. MM 187-192. Crack and seat with bridge repair. Head to head traffic in the WB lane. EB lane closed.

[4] I-25 Buffalo south to the district boundary. MM 272-279. Mill and Overlay. SB lane closed. Head to head traffic in NB lane.

E5 I-90 South Dakota State Line. MM 201-207. Crack and Seat with bridge repair. Westbound lane Closed. Head to head traffic in the eastbound lane.

E6 I-90 Wild Horse section. MM 112-118. Mill and overlay with bridge repairs. Lane closures with traffic control.

Central Wyoming - C

C1 I-25: Three bridge rehabilitation projects at MM 33, 45 and 46 in Laramie County.

(2) I-25 Bridge, surface rehabilitation between MM 138-142, NB and SB lanes.

(3) I-25: Surface, bridge rehabilitation. Fencing and other work in NB lanes between MM 160-175.

Southeast Wyoming - D

D1 I-80 between Laramie, Cheyenne. MM 324-331. Milling, paving and bridge rehabilitation in EB/WB lanes.

D2 I-80/Halleck Ridge. MM 245-252. Milling, paving, bridge and guardrail work in EB/WB lanes. Lane closures, reduced speeds.

D3 I-80/Arlington. Milling, paving and bridge work. Lane closures, reduced speeds.

D4 District-wide crack seal project. Contractor is intermittently working in southeast Wyoming.

D5 Curtis Street bridge replacement – Laramie.

D6 Cheyenne Marginal – I-80 Roundtop Rd. bridges under construction.

D7 Terry Ranch Rd./US 85. Milling, paving on US 85 between College Drive (US 85) and Terry Ranch Rd..

E7 US 16 Buffalo West. MM 63-69. Mill and overlay with chip seal. Reduced speed limits and traffic control. Mid/late July start.

E8 US 16 Truck Arrestor/CatchNET system. MM 85.40. CLOSED for reconstruction.

E9 I-25 Buffalo South. MM 282-278. Wearing course application. Reduced speed limit, lane closures with traffic control.

E10 WYO 50 Gillette south to Pine Tree Junction. MM 36-52. Mill/overlay. Reduced speed, traffic control.

E11 US 85 Newcastle South to Mule Creek Junction. MM 195-202. Mill and overlay. Reduced speed, traffic control.

E12 US 14 west MM 69.80 near Steamboat Point. Slide repair. Expected start mid-July. One lane of traffic, 24 hour traffic signal. Expected wait up to five minutes.

(4) I-25: Five bridge replacements. Surfacing and other work between MM 189-190. Affects both NB and SB lanes.

C5 I-25: Surfacing and bridge rehabilitation between MM 219-227 in the Midwest area.

US 18/20. Surfacing and chip seal between MM 0-17 (Orin Junction east).

D8 Baggs to CO state line, milling/paving, structure repair. Lane closures, reduced speeds.

D9 Chalk Bluffs Rd. safety project. Install of a SB (US 85) left turn lane to EB Chalk Bluffs Rd. Grading to widen US 85, milling and hot plant mix overlay, striping.

U10 US 30/WYO 34 Junction east. MM 0-9.7. asphalt overlay, seal coating. Begins in June.

WYO 230; Lake Hattie Section. MM 2.4-11.5. Chip seal in June, continuation from last year's project. Scheduled to be completed in 5 days.

U12 WYO 789/WYO 70; Town of Baggs. WYO 789 MM 50-53/ WYO 70 MM 0-0.9. Mill, overlay, seal coat and structure work. Work begins in June.

D13 WYO 230; Chip seal project. MM 2.5-11.5.

